

**Los Angeles-Long Beach  
Vessel Traffic Service  
(VTS)**

# **USER MANUAL**

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Operated by:

**Marine Exchange      and      United States  
of LA-LB Harbor          Coast Guard**

In partnership with:

**California Office of Spill Prevention & Response  
Port of Long Beach  
Port of Los Angeles  
and all Waterway Users**

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Enhancing safe, environmentally sound and efficient maritime  
transportation for:

**San Pedro Channel  
Santa Monica Bay  
Port of Los Angeles  
Port of Long Beach**

**Revised April 1, 2001**

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Vessel Traffic Service is to improve vessel transit safety by providing vessel operators with advance information of other reported marine traffic and any additional information, advice and recommendations which may affect vessel traffic safety within the VTS area.

The goal of the Los Angeles/Long Beach Vessel Traffic Service is to provide seamless navigational information to improve vessel transit safety. The Coast Guard/ Marine Exchange, Los Angeles Pilots and Long Beach Pilots each specializing in their own area, have worked together to create a unique system. The Vessel Traffic Service is a cooperative effort of the State of California, U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Exchange of Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor, Inc., Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, and under the authority of California Government Code Section 8670.21, Harbors and Navigation Code Section 445-449.5 and the port tariffs of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

### San Pedro VTC

Vessels outside the federal breakwater to 25 nm from Point Fermin will be provided with vessel traffic information through “San Pedro Vessel Traffic Center”. San Pedro Traffic VTC is a jointly operated by the Coast Guard and the Marine Exchange. The VTC will provide vessel operators with information

### Los Angeles – Long Beach VTC

Vessels inside the federal breakwater within the boundaries of the Los Angeles and Long Beach sectors will be provided with advisory information on other reported marine traffic and any additional information available to the VTCs that may affect vessel traffic safety within their sector.

This manual is derived from a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Vessel Traffic Management in the Los Angeles-Long Beach Approaches & Harbors and the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Plan. It is intended to provide the user with information necessary for participation within the Los Angeles/Long Beach Vessel Traffic Service (from 25nm from PT Fermin to berth or anchorage inside the federal breakwater). This manual is not intended to conflict with or modify any existing regulations in any respect, and vessels within the VTS area shall be responsible for their safe navigation in accordance with existing international and local rules (including the Harbor Safety Plan).

**THE MARINER IS CAUTIONED THAT INFORMATION PROVIDED BY VESSEL TRAFFIC CENTERS IS TO A LARGE EXTENT BASED UPON REPORTS OF PARTICIPATING VESSELS AND CAN BE NO MORE ACCURATE THAN THE INFORMATION RECEIVED. THE VTS CENTERS MAY NOT KNOW OF ALL HAZARDOUS CIRCUMSTANCES WITHIN THE VESSEL TRAFFIC AREA. UNREPORTED HAZARDS MAY CONFRONT THE MARINER AT ANY TIME. ANY CONFLICTING CIRCUMSTANCES OR HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE APPLICABLE VESSEL TRAFFIC CENTER IMMEDIATELY.**

We encourage all interested parties to visit the USCG/Marine Exchange Vessel Traffic Center, the Los Angeles Pilot Station and the Long Beach Pilot Station. We encourage suggestions for improvements to this manual or to the VTS procedures. Suggestions may be mailed to:

USCG/MX Vessel Traffic Center  
P.O. Box 1949  
San Pedro, CA 90733-1949; U.S.A.

Phone: (310) 519-3126 (administration office)  
(310) 832-6411 (24 hour operations center)  
(310) 833-7051 (fax)

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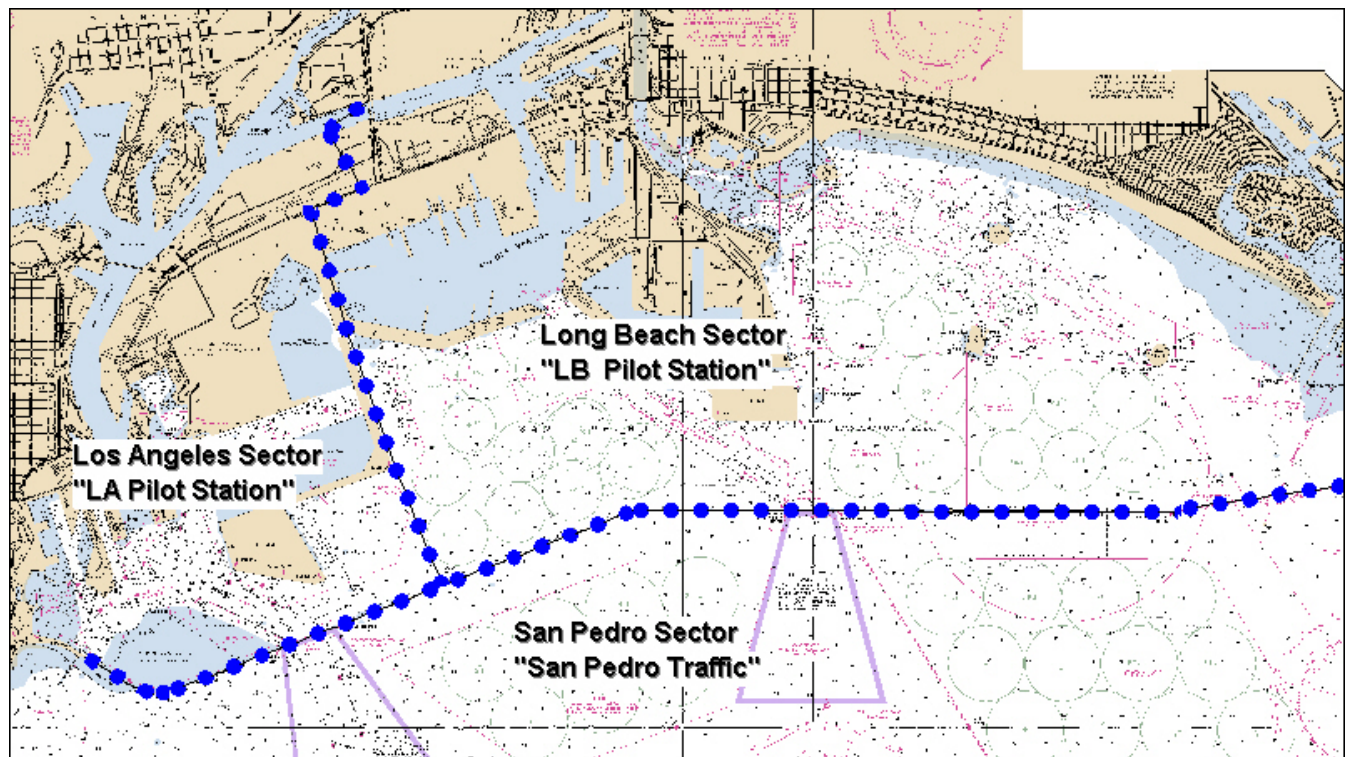


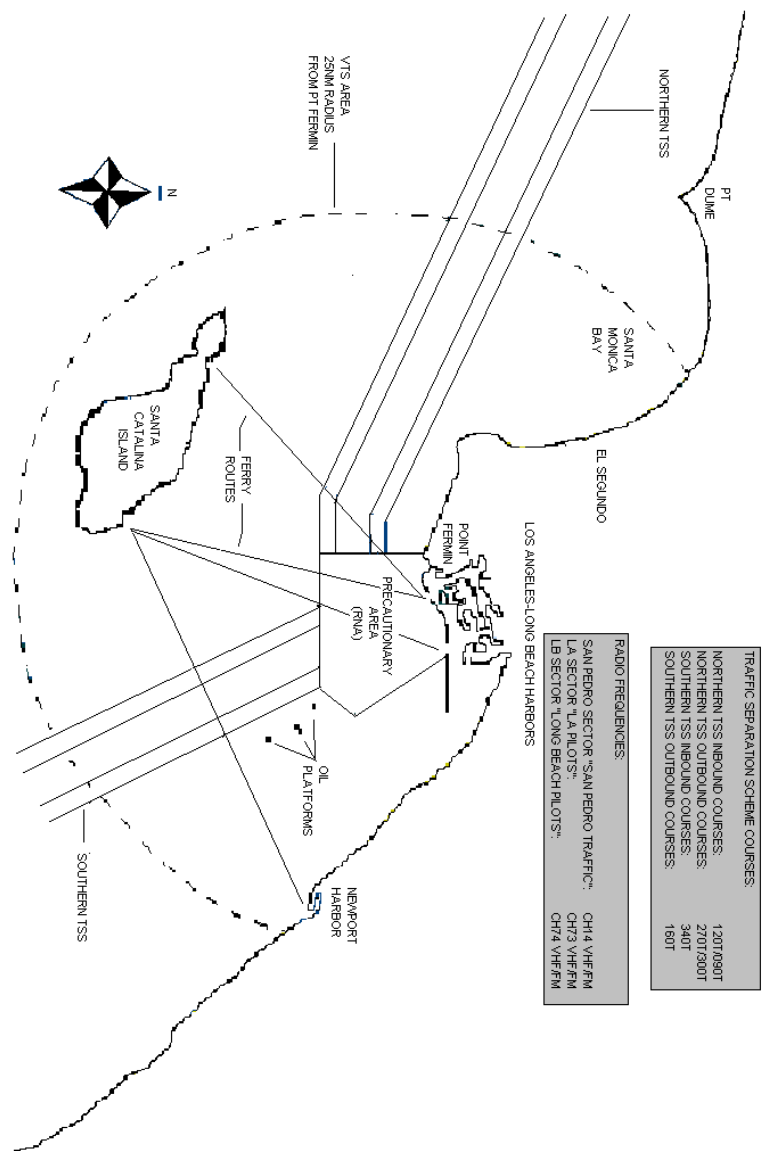
Figure 1-1 VTS SECTORS

<b><u>SECTOR</u></b>	<b>Sector Description</b>	<b>VTC Location</b>	<b>VHF-FM Channel</b>	<b>VTC Voice Call</b>
<b>The San Pedro Sector</b>	25 nautical miles from PT Fermin to the Federal Breakwater	USCG/MX VTS	14	"San Pedro Traffic"
<b>The Los Angeles Sector</b>	The area inside the federal breakwater encompassing the port of Los Angeles	Los Angeles Harbor Pilot Station	73	"LA Pilot Station"
<b>The Long Beach Sector</b>	The area inside the federal breakwater encompassing the port of Long Beach	Jacobsen Pilot Station	74	"Long Beach Pilot Station"

**VTS Description**

VTS LA/LB is a vessel traffic monitoring and reporting system within the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor and approaches and extending to 25 nautical miles seaward of PT Fermin. This system is comprised of three VTS Sectors. Within each Sector is a Vessel Traffic Center (VTC) with watchstanders that monitor and report traffic information within their sector and coordinate traffic movements across sector boundaries.

1. GENERAL RULES



**1.1 Purpose** | The VTS for the Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor and approaches has been established to monitor traffic and provide mariners with timely, relevant and accurate information for the purpose of enhancing safe, environmentally sound and efficient maritime transportation.

**1.2 Applicability** | There are two general categories of waterway users within the VTS:

- a. Mandatory Participation:
  1. Active User
  2. Passive User
- b. Non-Participant

VTS Participant Category	VTS Participant Vessel Criteria	VTS User Requirements
<b>Active User (VMRS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power driven vessels of 40 meters (approximately 131 feet) or more in length while navigating;</li> <li>Commercial towing vessels 8 meters (approximately 26 feet) or more in length that are towing alongside, astern or by pushing ahead;</li> <li>Vessels certificated to carry 50 or more passengers for hire, while engaged in trade, under sail or power. (<i>applies in San Pedro Sector only</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>The operators of these vessels must comply with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication procedures (Section 2),</li> <li>Vessel Movement and Reporting Procedures (Section 3) and</li> <li>Traffic Separation Scheme Rules (Appendix A)</li> <li>Keep a copy of this VTS User Manual on board while within the VTS area.</li> </ul>
<b>Passive User (VTS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power driven vessels of 20 meters (approximately 65 feet) or more in length while navigating;</li> <li>Vessels of 100 gross tons or more carrying one or more passengers for hire, while engaged in trade, regardless of length, or whether under sail or power;</li> <li>Every dredge or floating plant.</li> </ul>	<p>The operators of these vessels must comply with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain a radio listening watch IAW communication procedures (Section 2), and;</li> <li>Respond to the VTS center when hailed</li> <li>Traffic Separation Scheme Rules (Appendix A)</li> </ul>
Continued on next page		

VTS Participant Category	VTS Participant Vessel Criteria	VTS User Requirements
Non-Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Vessels that do not fall into the Active or Passive User categories..</li></ul>	<p>The operators of these vessels are <b>not required to participate</b> with the VTS, but are <b>encouraged</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monitor VTS VHF-FM channels at all times and</li><li>Contact VTS Centers to obtain information, seek assistance or report emergencies</li><li>Observe VTS measures (advice/ information given by the VTS);</li><li></li></ul> <p>Non-Participants <b>must</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Observe and obey all International Rules of the Road, with special emphasis on Rule 9 (Narrow Channels) and Rule 10 (Traffic Separation Scheme);</li><li>Comply with all other measures of safe navigation and prudent seamanship while operating within the VTS area.</li></ul>



### 1.3 Definitions (as used in this manual)

Term	Definition
ETA	Estimated Time of Arrival
ETD	Estimated Time of Departure
Precautionary Area	A routing measure comprising an area within defined limits where ships must navigate with particular caution.
Regulated Navigation Area (RNA)	The area directly outside the entrance to the Ports of LA & LB (south of the Federal Breakwater.) See Appendix A for operating requirements within this area.
Separation Zone	An area of the Traffic Separation Scheme separating the opposing traffic lanes. The separation zone is 1 to 2 miles (1,853 and 3,706 meters) wide within the VTS Sector.
Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS)	The routing measure aimed at the separation of opposing streams of traffic by appropriate means and by the establishment of traffic lanes. (See Appendix A for additional information.)
Traffic Lane	An area of the TSS within defined limits, in which one way traffic is established.
Vessel Traffic Center (VTC)	The shore based facility that is responsible for monitoring and reporting vessel traffic information in a VTS sector.
VMRS User (Vessel Movement Reporting System)	Active Participant
VTS User	Active and Passive Participant
VTS Watchstander	The person(s) on watch at the VTC(s).
Vessel Traffic Service (VTS)	Provide coordinated vessel traffic management for the approaches to, and within the Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors. "Coordinated vessel traffic management" includes, but is not limited to, monitoring vessel traffic, and providing mariners with timely, relevant and accurate traffic information during their transit through covered waters.

### 1.4 Laws and Regulations Not Affected

- Nothing in this manual is intended to relieve any person from complying with:
- International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, (72 COLREGS),
  - Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Regulations (33 C.F.R. 26),
  - The Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971 (46 U.S.C. 1451 through 1489) and
  - Any other international, federal, state or local laws and regulations.

### 1.5 Emergencies

***In emergencies***, any vessel may deviate from any rule in this manual to the extent necessary to avoid endangering persons, property or the environment. When an emergency arises and it becomes necessary to deviate from these rules for reasons of safety, the vessel operator shall report or cause to be reported the deviation to the applicable VTC as soon as possible.

**2.1 Radio Listening Watch**

All active and passive VTS participants in the VTS area shall continuously monitor or cause to be monitored the VHF-FM channel for the sector in which they are transiting and respond promptly when hailed.

Sector Transiting	VTC VHF-FM Channel	VTC Voice Call	Passing Arrangements
San Pedro Sector	Ch-14	San Pedro Traffic	Ch-14
Los Angeles Sector	Ch-73	LA Pilot Station	Ch-13
Long Beach Sector	Ch-74	Long Beach Pilot Station	Ch-13

- a. In accordance with Federal Communication Commission regulations, no person may use the VTS frequencies designated in this section to transmit any information other than information necessary for the safety of vessel traffic.
- b. All transmissions on the VTS frequencies should be initiated on low power (1 watt). High power may only be used if low power communications are unsuccessful.
- c. **In the San Pedro Sector**, all vessels should make passing arrangements with other vessels on VHF Channel 14 to allow monitoring by VTS.
- d. **In the LA and LB Sectors**, all vessels should make passing arrangements with other vessels on VHF Channel 13.

**2.2 Radiotelephone Equipment and Procedures**

All reports and communications required must be made to the appropriate VTC on their designated VHF-FM channel. All such reports and communications shall be made using a radio that is maintained in effective operating condition and is capable of operation on the navigational bridge of the vessel or in the main control station of a dredge.

**2.3 English Language**

Each required report must be made in the English language.

**2.4 Time**

Each report required must specify time using:

- a. The zone time in effect in the VTS area and
- b. The 24-hour clock designation (e.g. 1800 instead of 6:00 p.m.)

### **2.5 Report of Emergency or Radio Failure**

Whenever a vessel deviates from any rule in the Bridge to Bridge Radiotelephone Act because of an emergency or radio failure, it shall report the deviation to the San Pedro Sector VTC as soon as possible.

### **2.6 Report of Impairment to the Operation of the Vessel**

A vessel in the VTS area shall report to the San Pedro Sector VTC as soon as possible:

- a. Any emergency or unusual even such as fire, collision, grounding, man overboard, etc,
- b. Any condition on the vessel that may impair its navigation, reduce its capabilities or affect the safety of other vessels due to defective propulsion, defective steering, inoperative navigation running lights, unusual handling, impaired maneuverability, inoperative whistle or horn, navigation equipment, etc. ,
- c. Any tow that the towing vessel is unable to control or can control only with difficulty,
- d. Any other unusual condition which restricts or prohibits total compliance with the requirements of the VTS.
- e. This report satisfies immediate reporting requirements in 46 CFR 4.05-1 (see Appendix B)

## 3.1 Vessel Participation Requirements

These reporting requirements are to provide necessary information to the VTC watchstander(s) so they can utilize and pass timely, relevant and accurate information to VTS users.

**Active Participants** are required to:

- Monitor VTS frequencies, respond promptly when hailed
- Check into the system
- Advise when actually underway
- Contact the applicable VTC when passing a Position Reporting Point or VTS Sector boundary. Additional reporting may be necessary as determined by the appropriate VTC
- Check out of the system upon reaching their destination.

**Passive participants** are required to:

- Monitor VTS frequencies, respond promptly when hailed

**Non-Participants** are **highly encouraged** to monitor VTS frequencies and communicate with participating vessels and/or VTCs as necessary.

***San Pedro Sector***

## 3.2 VTS “San Pedro Sector” Reporting Points

When to Report	Who to Contact	What to Report
Upon entering the VTS San Pedro Sector from Sea (at 25 nm VTS Boundary)	Call: <i><b>San Pedro Traffic</b></i> on VHF-FM channel 14	a. Vessel name/call sign, b. Position (lat and long) c. Course and speed, d. Vessel destination, e. Whether the vessel is taking a pilot or being piloted by master/commanding officer, f. ETA to the sea buoy/pilot boarding area or El Segundo offshore moorings
Upon entering or departing the Precautionary Area (see Appendix A-1 for Precautionary Area vessel movement requirements)	Call: <i><b>San Pedro Traffic</b></i> on VHF-FM channel 14	a. Vessel name/call sign, b. If <b>entering</b> : report that the master/ commanding officer is on the bridge and that the vessel is being steered by hand, c. If <b>departing</b> : report “ <i>departing Precautionary Area</i> ” d. Provide ETA

<i>San Pedro Sector</i>
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**3.2 VTS “San Pedro Sector”  
Reporting Points  
(Cont)**

When to Report	Who to Contact	What to Report
<b>Fifteen (15) minutes prior to commencing a movement within the San Pedro Sector</b> (Preparing to get underway from anchorage outside the federal breakwater or from El Segundo)	Call: <i>San Pedro Traffic</i> on VHF-FM channel 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Vessel name/call sign,</li> <li>b. Vessel destination port or direction of departure. If the vessel will cross the Traffic Separation Scheme, such vessel shall exercise utmost caution and comply with COLREGS Rule 10.</li> </ul>
<b>Upon getting underway outside the Federal Breakwater</b>	Call: <i>San Pedro Traffic</i> on VHF-FM channel 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Vessel name/call sign</li> <li>b. “<i>Underway at this time</i>”</li> <li>c. Any changes/updates to 15 minute check-in call</li> <li>d. <b>If Inbound and embarking pilot</b>, ETA to Sea Buoy</li> </ul>
<b>Upon departing the San Pedro Sector bound for sea</b> (at 25 nm VTS boundary)	Call: <i>San Pedro Traffic</i> on VHF-FM channel 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Vessel name/call sign,</li> <li>b. Vessel location,</li> <li>c. “<i>Checking out of VTS</i>”</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Reporting</b> (Additional reporting may be necessary or required as determined by the appropriate VTC)	Call the VTC sector requesting the report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Response back to the appropriate VTC sector with requested information, e.g. (San Pedro Traffic “<i>Vessel’s Name &amp; abeam the Sierra Papa (SP) buoy</i>”)</li> </ul>

*Los Angeles – Long Beach Sectors*

**3.3 VTS “Los Angeles & Long Beach Sectors” Reporting Points**

When to Report	Who to Contact	What to Report
<p><b>Preparing to get underway</b> (from berth, anchorage or offshore mooring.)</p> <p><i>Note:</i> The report shall be made prior to casting off all lines.</p>	<p>Call the appropriate VTC on their designated VHF-FM channel.</p>	<p>a. Vessel name/call sign, b. “Preparing to get underway in approximately _____ minutes” c. Any changes/updates to vessel status after initial call has been made</p>
<p><b>(5 min) prior to crossing a Inner-Harbor Sector boundary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Los Angeles – Long Beach City Boundary line</u></b> (Refer Chartlet under “General Rules page 1-1)</li> <li>• <b><u>The Heim bridge</u></b> (Cerritos Channel)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note:</i> For all vessels departing either the port of LA or LB entering San Pedro Sector the <b><u>15 minute</u></b> prior notification remains in effect</p>	<p>Call the appropriate VTC on their designated VHF-FM channel.</p>	<p>a. Vessel name/call sign b. The boundary which you are crossing, c. Destination/ETA</p>
<p><b>Upon completion of transit</b> (upon mooring or anchoring)</p>	<p>Call the appropriate VTC on their designated VHF-FM channel.</p>	<p>a. Vessel name/call sign, b. Vessel location, c. Vessel status (moored, anchored), d. “Checking out of VTS”</p>

***Los Angeles – Long Beach Sectors*****3.4 VTS “Los Angeles & Long Beach Sectors” Reporting Points**  
(Cont)

When to Report	Who to Contact	What to Report
<b>Additional Reporting</b> (Additional reporting may be necessary or required as determined by the appropriate VTC)	Call the VTC sector requesting the report	a. Response back to the appropriate VTC sector with requested information, e.g. (LA Pilot Station “ <i>Vessel’s Name &amp; Location</i> ” Checking Out!)

**A.1 Regulated  
Navigation  
Area (RNA)  
and  
Precautionary  
Area**

33 CFR 165.1109 San Pedro Bay, California--Regulated navigation area and Precautionary Area.

- (a) **Location.** The following are the geographic coordinates for the San Pedro regulated navigation area and precautionary area: From Point Fermin Light (33-42.3 N, 118-17.6 W) thence along the shoreline to the San Pedro Breakwater, thence along the San Pedro Breakwater and the Middle Breakwater (following the COLREGS Demarcation Lines) to Long Beach Channel Entrance Light 2 (33-43.4' N, 118-10.8' W), thence southeast to (33-37.7' N, 118-6.6' W); thence southwesterly to (33-35.5' N, 118-08.8' W); thence west to (33-35.5' N, 118-17.6' W); thence north to point of origin----.[Datum: NAD 1983]
- (b) Pilot areas. There are two pilot areas within the regulated navigation area described in paragraph (a). They are defined as follows:
- (1) The Los Angeles Pilot Area is enclosed by a line beginning at Los Angeles Light (33-42.5' N, 118-15.01" W); thence easterly to Los Angeles Main Channel Entrance Light 6 (33-42.7' N, 118-14.07' W); thence southeasterly to (33-41.3' N, 118-13.5' W); thence southwesterly to (33-40.8' N, 118-14.8' W); thence north to the point of origin.[Datum: NAD 1983]
  - (2) The Long Beach Pilot Area is enclosed by a line beginning at Long Beach Light (33-43.4' N, 118-11.2' W); thence easterly to Long Beach Channel Entrance Light 2 (33-43.4' N, 118-10.8' W); thence southeasterly to (33-41.5' N, 118-10.2' W); thence south to (33-40.5' N, 118-10.2' W); thence west to (33-40.5' N, 118-11.8' W), thence north to (33-41.5' N, 118-11.8' W), north northeasterly to the point of origin.[Datum: NAD 1983]
  - (3) The Los Angeles Deep Water Traffic Lane: This area is bounded by a line beginning at (33-42' 28" N, 118-14' 56.9" W), thence easterly to (33-42' 33.4" N, 118-14' 45" W), thence southeasterly to (33-39' 29" N, 118-13' 19.4" W), thence westerly to (33-39' 25.1" N, 118-13' 33" W), thence northerly to the point of origin.
  - (4) The Long Beach Deep Water Traffic Lane: This area is bounded by a line beginning at (33-43' 25.5" N, 118-11' 09" W), thence east to (33-43' 23.3" N, 118-10' 54.1" W), thence south to (33-41' 30.8" N, 118-10' 42.6" W), thence west to (33-41' 30" N, 118-10' 57" W), thence north to the point of origin.



- (5) The Los Angeles Deep Water Pilot Boarding Area: This area is defined by a circular area of 1.0 nm diameter centered on position at (33-39' 00" N, 118-13' 11.6" W).
- (c) The following regulations apply to all vessels while operating within the regulated navigation area:
  - (1) **Los Angeles Pilot Area:**
    - (i) No vessel may enter the Los Angeles Pilot Area unless it is entering or departing the Los Angeles Harbor Entrance (Angel's Gate).
    - (ii) Vessels entering the Los Angeles Pilot Area shall pass directly through without stopping or loitering except as necessary to embark or disembark a pilot.
  - (2) **Los Angeles Deep Water Pilot Area:**
    - (i) When a vessel of 50 foot draft or greater is embarking or disembarking a pilot in the Los Angeles Deep Water Pilot Area no other vessel shall enter the Deep Water Pilot Area.
  - (3) **Long Beach Pilot Area:**
    - (i) No vessel may enter the Long Beach Pilot Area unless it is entering or departing Long Beach Harbor Entrance (Queen's Gate).
    - (ii) Every vessel entering the Long Beach Pilot Area shall pass directly through without stopping or loitering except as necessary to embark or disembark a pilot.
    - (iii) Every vessel shall leave Long Beach Approach Lighted Whistle Buoy "LB" to port when entering and departing Long Beach Channel and departing vessels shall pass across the southern boundary of the Long Beach Pilot Area.
  - (4) **Los Angeles and Long Beach Deep Channels:**
    - (i) When a vessel of 50 foot draft or greater is using the Los Angeles or Long Beach Deep Water Channel no other vessel shall enter the Deep Water Traffic Lane if it will result in a meeting, crossing or overtaking situation.
- (d) The following regulations contained in paragraphs (e)(1) through (e)(4) apply to vessels power driven vessels of 1600 or more gross tons, a towing vessels of 8 meters (approximately 26 feet) or over in length engaged in towing, vessels of 100 gross tons and upward carrying one or more passengers for hire:

- (1) Such vessel's speed shall not exceed 12 knots;
- (2) A vessel navigating within the RNA, shall have its engine(s) ready for immediate maneuver and shall operate its engine(s) in a control mode on fuel that will allow for an immediate response to any engine order, ahead or astern, including stopping its engine(s) for an extended period of time;
- (3) A vessel navigating within the RNA shall maintain a minimum separation from other vessels of at least 0.25 nm;
- (4) No such vessel may enter the waters between Commercial Anchorage G and the Middle Breakwater as defined by an area enclosed by a line beginning at Los Angeles Main Channel Entrance Light 6 (33-42' 42" N, 118-14' 42" W); thence eastward along the middle breakwater to Long Beach Light (33-43' 24" N, 118-11' 12" W); thence south to (33-43' 05.3" N, 118-11' 15.3" W); thence westerly to (33-43' 05.3" N, 118-12' 15.7" W); thence southwesterly parallel to the breakwater to (33-42' 29.9" N, 118-14' 16.0" W); thence to the point of origin, unless such vessel is:
  - (i) In an emergency;
  - (ii) Proceeding to anchor in or departing Commercial Anchorage G;
  - (iii) Standing by with confirmed pilot boarding arrangements; or,
  - (iv) Engaged in towing vessels to or from Commercial Anchorage G, or to or from the waters between Commercial Anchorage G and the Middle Breakwater

### Precautionary Area

These regulations apply to all Active Users while the Precautionary Area.

When operating within the Precautionary Area:

- a. Prior to entering the Precautionary Area, Active Users shall check in with the VTC and report that the master/commanding officer is on the bridge and the vessel is being steered by hand;
- b. Power driven vessels of 1600 or more gross tons, a towing vessels of 8 meters (approximately 26 feet) or over in length engaged in towing, vessels of 100 gross tons and upward carrying one or more passengers for hire shall not exceed 12 knots;
- c. Vessels underway should maintain a minimum vessel separation of  $\frac{1}{4}$  nautical mile (460 meters);
- d. Vessels crossing the Precautionary Area or maneuvering in an unusual manner, whether in the Precautionary Area or near the TSS, i.e. compass/RDF calibrations or drills/exercises, shall notify VTS of their intentions;

**A.2 Traffic  
Separation  
Scheme (TSS)**

- e. All vessels shall be aware of the Regulated Navigation Areas in San Pedro Bay. This area encompasses both Pilot Boarding Areas as well as Anchorage “G.” Refer to 33CFR 165.1109 and United States Coast Pilot #7 for additional information on the San Pedro Bay Regulated Navigation Area.

These Regulations apply to all vessels while operating within the TSS:

- a. The master, pilot, or person directing the movement of a vessel in the TSS shall operate the vessel in accordance with the procedures of this manual.
- b. A vessel proceeding in a traffic lane must keep the separation zone to port.
- c. A vessel shall so far as practicable avoid anchoring in a Traffic Separation Scheme or in areas near its terminations.
- d. A vessel crossing a traffic lane shall, to the extent possible, maintain a course that is perpendicular to the direction of the flow of traffic in the traffic lane.
- e. A vessel joining or leaving a traffic lane shall steer a course to converge or diverge from the direction of traffic flow in the traffic lane at as small an angle as possible.
- f. A vessel engaged in fishing shall not impede the passage of any vessel following a traffic lane.
- g. A vessel of less than 20 meters in length or a sailing vessel shall not impede the safe passage of a power-driven vessel following a traffic lane.

**A.3 Traffic Lanes.**

The following is a description of the Traffic Separation Scheme in the approaches to Los Angeles and Long Beach. Refer to NOAA Chart 18746.

a. Approaching from the north (from Santa Barbara Channel)

(1) A separation zone is encompassed by a line connecting the following geographical positions:

- (i) 33-37.7' N, 118-17.6" W
- (i) 33-36.5' N, 118-17.6' W
- (i) 33-36.5' N, 118-23.1' W
- (i) 33-43.2' N, 118-36.9' W
- (i) 33-44.9' N, 118-35.7' W
- (i) 33-37.7' N, 118-20.9' W

(2) A traffic lane, one mile, is established on each side of the separation zone.

(3) The main traffic directions are:

090° - 270°  
120° - 300°

b. Approaching from the south

(1) A separation zone, two miles wide, is encompassed by a line connecting the following geographical positions:

- (i). 33-35.5' N, 118-10.3" W
- (ii). 33-35.5' N, 118-12.8' W
- (iii). 33-19.7' N, 118-03.5' W
- (iv). 33-19.0' N, 118-05.6' W

(2) A traffic lane, one mile wide is established on each side of the separation zone.

(3) The main traffic directions are:

160° and 340°

c. Portions of the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Northern and Southern approaches to Los Angeles and Long Beach are within the VTS area. Refer to NOAA charts 18751, 18749 and 18746.

**B.1 Notice of  
Marine  
Casualty  
46 CFR 4.05-1**

- a. Immediately after the addressing of resultant safety concerns, the owner, agent, master, operator, or person in charge, shall notify the nearest Marine Safety Office, Marine Inspection Office or Coast Guard Group Office whenever a vessel is involved in a marine casualty consisting in—
  - 1) An unintended grounding, or an unintended strike of (allision with) a bridge;
  - 2) An intended grounding, or an intended strike of a bridge, that creates a hazard to navigation, the environment, or the safety of a vessel, or that meets any criterion of paragraphs (a) (3) through (7);
  - 3) A loss of main propulsion, primary steering, or any associated component or control system that reduces the maneuverability of the vessel;
  - 4) An occurrence materially and adversely affecting the vessel's seaworthiness or fitness for service or route, including but not limited to fire, flooding, or failure of or damage to fixed fire-extinguishing systems, lifesaving equipment, auxiliary power-generating equipment, or bilge-pumping systems;
  - 5) A loss of life;
  - 6) An injury that requires professional medical treatment (treatment beyond first aid) and, if the person is engaged or employed on board a vessel in commercial service, that renders the individual unfit to perform his or her routine duties; or
  - 7) An occurrence causing property-damage in excess of \$25,000, this damage including the cost of labor and material to restore the property to its condition before the occurrence, but not including the cost of salvage, cleaning, gas-freeing, dry-docking, or demurrage.
- b. Notice given as required by 33 CFR 160.215 satisfies the requirement of this section if the marine casualty involves a hazardous condition as defined by 33 CFR 160.203.

**B.2 Substance of  
Marine  
Casualty  
Notice  
46 CFR 4.05-5**

The notice required in Section 4.05-1 must include the:

- name and official number of the vessel involved,
- name of the vessel's owner or agent,
- nature and circumstances of the casualty,
- locality in which it occurred,
- nature and extent of injury to persons, and
- damage to property.

<i><b>San Pedro Sector Check-off List</b></i>
-----------------------------------------------

**VTs “San Pedro Sector:**

**Upon entering the VTs San Pedro Sector from Sea,** (at 25 nm VTs Boundary) call “San Pedro Traffic” on channel 14 and provide the following information:

- |                                                                                                                   |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| a. Vessel name/call sign,                                                                                         | _____ |
| b. Vessel position, course and speed                                                                              | _____ |
| c. Vessel destination (if anchoring outside the breakwater, within the VTs area, request an anchorage assignment) | _____ |
| d. State whether or not taking on a pilot                                                                         | _____ |
| e. ETA to destination                                                                                             | _____ |
| f. Advise of any know mechanical/navigation system difficulty                                                     | _____ |
| g. Reduce speed to be at 12 knots upon entry to Precautionary Area                                                | _____ |

**Notes of Interest:**

- The 25 nm Outer Limit is defined by a 25 mile arc from Point Fermin (33° 42.3’ N, 118° 17.6’ W).
- There is no prescribed speed restriction between the 25 nm limit and the Precautionary Area. All vessels shall proceed at a safe speed. However, ships are required to be at 12 knots or less upon entering and transiting the Precautionary Area.
- A minimum vessel separation of ¼ nm is required in the Precautionary Area.
- Code of Federal Regulations 33 CFR 165, subsection 1109 identifies the Precautionary Area as a Regulated Navigation Area (see Appendix A)

**VTs San Pedro Sector**

**Upon entering or departing the Precautionary Area,** call “San Pedro Traffic” on channel 14 and provide the following information:

- |                                                                                                                                 |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| a. Vessel name/call sign,                                                                                                       | _____ |
| b. If <b>entering</b> : report that the master/commanding officer is on the bridge and that the vessel is being steered by hand | _____ |
| c. Contact pilots, channel 73 (LA) or 74 (LB) as appropriate                                                                    | _____ |
| d. Provide ETA to pilot boarding area or anchorage                                                                              | _____ |
| e. If <b>departing</b> : report “departing Precautionary Area ETA to 25 nm limit is _____”.                                     | _____ |

**VTs San Pedro Sector**

**15 minutes prior to getting underway,** call “San Pedro Traffic” on channel 14 and provide the following information

- |                                                  |       |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|
| a. Vessel name/call sign,                        | _____ |
| b. Vessel position                               | _____ |
| If not taking on a pilot, also report:           |       |
| c. Vessel type                                   | _____ |
| d. Operation (e.g. Tug and Tow, Dredging, etc)   | _____ |
| e. Destination and intended route (as necessary) | _____ |

*San Pedro Sector Check-off List (Cont).***VTs San Pedro Sector**

**Upon Getting Underway outside the Federal Breakwater, Call “San Pedro Traffic” on VHF-FM channel 14 and provide the following information:**

- a. Vessel name/call sign, \_\_\_\_\_
- b. “Underway at this time”, \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Any changes/updates to 15 minute check-in call, \_\_\_\_\_
- d. If **Inbound and embarking a pilot**, ETA to Sea Buoy \_\_\_\_\_

If **INBOUND** to either Los Angeles or Long Beach,

- proceed to step F.4 on the Check Off list for Arriving Vessels.

If **OUTBOUND**,

- Maintain speed at 12 knots or less through Precautionary Area
- Maintain a minimum vessel separation of ¼ nm while in the Precautionary Area.
- Code of Federal Regulations 33 CFR 165, subsection 165.1109 identifies the Precautionary Area as a Regulated Navigation Area (see Appendix A)
- Continue on to step F.8.

**VTs San Pedro Sector**

**Upon departing the San Pedro Sector bound for sea (at 25 nm VTS boundary), Call “San Pedro Traffic” on VHF-FM channel 14 and provide the following information:**

- a. Vessel name/call sign \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Vessel position \_\_\_\_\_
- c. “Checking out of VTS” \_\_\_\_\_

**All VTS Sectors**

**Additional Reporting** (Additional reporting may be necessary or required as determined by the applicable VTC. Response back to the appropriate VTC sector with requested information, e.g. (San Pedro Traffic “Vessel’s Name & abeam the Sierra Papa (SP) buoy)

<i><b>Los Angeles-Long Beach Sector Check-off List</b></i>
------------------------------------------------------------

**VTs Los Angeles & Long Beach Sectors**

(This report shall be made prior to casting off all lines)

**Preparing to get underway** (from berth, anchorage, or offshore mooring), Call the VTC of the Sector currently in (either “*LA Pilot Station*” on VHF-FM channel 73 or “*Long Beach Pilot Station*” on VHF-FM channel 74) and provide the following information:

- |                                                                |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| a. Vessel name/call sign,                                      |  |
| b. “Preparing to get underway in approximately _____ minutes”, |  |
| c. Any changes/updates                                         |  |

**VTs Los Angeles & Long Beach Sectors**

- LA & LB city boundary line
- Heim Bridge (Cerritos Channel)

**5 minutes prior to reaching the boundary**, call the VTC of the destination Sector (“*LA Pilot Station*” on VHF-FM channel 73 or “*Long Beach Pilot Station*” on VHF-FM channel 74) and provide the following information:

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| a. Vessel name/call sign, |  |
| b. Vessel position,       |  |

Note: If shifting from inside the breakwater, to an **anchorage outside the breakwater**, request an anchorage assignment from “*San Pedro Traffic*” at this time.

**Note:**

- For all vessels departing either the Port of LA or LB entering San Pedro Sector the **15 minute** prior notification remains in effect

**VTs Los Angeles & Long Beach Sectors**

**Upon completion of transit** (upon mooring or anchoring), call the VTC of the destination Sector (“*LA Pilot Station*” on VHF-FM channel 73 or “*Long Beach Pilot Station*” on VHF-FM channel 74) and provide the following information:

- |                                                       |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--|
| a. Vessel name/call sign                              |  |
| b. Vessel location                                    |  |
| c. Vessel status (moored or anchored *see note below) |  |
| d. “Checking out of VTS”                              |  |

**Note:**

- For all vessels anchoring inside the federal breakwater in either the Port of Los Angeles or Long Beach, an additional CHECK OUT call must be made to “San Pedro Tfc”. This call is to satisfy the Coast Guard notification requirement.

**All VTS Sectors**

**Additional Reporting** (Additional reporting may be necessary or required as determined by the applicable VTC. Response back to the appropriate VTC sector with requested information, e.g. (LA Pilot Station “*Vessel’s Name & Location*” Checking Out!)



## **V. T. S. USER'S FEES**

*Effective April 01, 2001, and as mandated by State Law and specified in Port of Long Beach Tariff # 4, and Port of Los Angeles Tariff # 4, arriving vessels shall be assessed a "VTS User's Fee" as stipulated below:*

### **POWER-DRIVEN VESSELS 40 METERS (APPROXIMATELY 131 FEET) AND OVER:**

VESSEL LOA (*)	RATE (**)
NOT OVER 150M	\$180
OVER 150M, UP TO 190M	\$200
OVER 190M, UP TO 230M	\$230
OVER 230M, UP TO 270M	\$270
OVER 270, UP TO 310M	\$300
OVER 310M	\$340

In addition to the above LOA VTS User Fees, each arriving covered vessel will be assessed \$0.0015 per gross registered ton (GRT) as recorded by Lloyd's.

*(\*\*) NOTE: User Companies (or their Agents) may be invoiced as follows:*

*(GROUP ONE BILLING): A monthly invoice covering all vessels arriving for the same liner company for that period; or*

*(GROUP TWO BILLING): Each ship billed individually upon arrival.*

Please contact the Marine Exchange with your billing requirements and instructions for mailing (where, and to whose attention).

### **"INNOCENT PASSAGE" –**

Any "Covered Vessel" that passes through the VTS "Area of Responsibility" (which extends along a 25-mile radius from Point Fermin), and that does NOT make an official arrival at either the Port of Los Angeles or the Port of Long Beach (for the purpose of occupying a berth or an anchorage), shall be considered to have made an "Innocent Passage", and **shall NOT be subject to any VTS Users' Fees.**

**TUGS WITH COMMERCIAL TOWS –**

Every arriving power-driven vessel 8 meters (approximately 26 feet) or longer that is towing astern, alongside, or pushing ahead another vessel (or vessels) **shall be assessed a “VTS User’s Fee” of \$200**. There is no fee for the towed vessel(s). *Note: Integrated tug and barge units (ITB) will be regarded and billed as a “ship”.*

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**PASSENGER FERRIES (\*\*\*) AND TUGS WITH COMMERCIAL TOWS (ENGAGED IN TRADE BETWEEN POLA/POLB AND SANTA CATALINA ISLAND) –**

**During the months of June, July, and August, such vessels shall be assessed a monthly “VTS User’s Fee” of \$330** (for each vessel in operation – regardless of the number of trips made). **For the rest of the year, the rate will be \$165 per month** (per vessel in operation – regardless of the number of trips made).

*(\*\*\*) NOTE “Covered Vessels” in this category include all vessels certified to carry 50 or more passengers for hire (regardless of LOA or gross tonnage); and any vessel 100 gross tons and over, carrying 1 or more passengers for hire.*

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**TUGS WITH COMMERCIAL TOWS, DREDGES, DERRICK BARGES, AND OTHER VESSELS ENGAGED IN “PORT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS” (AS OUTLINED IN POLA/POLA TARIFFS #4) –**

**Such vessels shall be assessed a monthly “VTS User’s Fee” of \$330** (for each vessel in operation – regardless of the number of trips made in and out of the harbor). Provided, however, that if such a vessel makes only **ONE TRIP** in any given month, **then that vessel shall be assessed the basic \$200 “VTS User’s Fee”** for a standard “Tug with a commercial tow”.

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**COMMERCIAL RESCUE/EMERGENCY ASSIST VESSELS –**

Such vessels, when towing stranded or disabled recreational boaters (or other small craft), **shall be assessed a monthly “VTS User’s Fee” of \$28** for each vessel engaged in such service.

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**“WHALE WATCHING” AND COMMERCIAL SPORT FISHING VESSELS:**

Any vessel certified to carry 50 or more passengers, and dedicated to “whale watching” and/or commercial sport fishing, **shall be assessed a monthly VTS User’s Fee of \$55** for each vessel engaged in such service.